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Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1. (previously presented) A method of enhancing an image, comprising:
first, smoothing the image using a sharply peaked filter to produce a smoothed image;
detecting an edge in the smoothed image; and
performing lowpass filtering on the smoothed image to produce an enhanced image,
wherein lowpass filtering is performed using a high frequency cutoff filter only on non-edge
areas of the smoothed image as determined by the edge detection.

Claim 2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein smoothing comprises:
applying a two-dimensional filter to a pixel in the image;
storing a pixel processed by the two-dimensional filter in the smoothed image; and
repeating storing and applying for one or more other pixels in the image.

Claim 3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein performing lowpass filtering
comprises:
applying a one-dimensional filter to a pixel in the smoothed image;
storing a pixel processed by the one-dimensional filter in the enhanced image; and
repeating storing and applying for one or more other pixels in the smoothed image.

Claim 4. (canceled)

Claim 5. (canceled)

Claim 6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting the edge
comprises applying an edge filter to the smoothed image.

Claim 7. (previously presented) A method of enhancing an image, comprising:
smoothing the image using a sharply peaked filter to produce a smoothed image;

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performing lowpass filtering using a high frequency cutoff filter on the smoothed image to produce an enhanced image; and

applying a median filter to the enhanced image, wherein the median filter is designed to reduce artifacts on the enhanced image.

Claim 8. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising detecting edges in the smoothed image, wherein the median filter is applied only to non-edge areas of the enhanced image.

Claim 9. (previously presented) A method of performing inverse halftoning on a halftoned image, comprising:

smoothing the halftoned image using a sharply peaked two-dimensional filter to produce a smoothed image;

detecting edge areas in the smoothed image;

performing lowpass filtering using a high frequency cutoff filter on non-edge areas of the smoothed image; and

generating an enhanced image comprised of the edge areas of the smoothed image and lowpass-filtered non-edge areas of the smoothed image.

Claim 10. (previously presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising applying a median filter to non-edge areas of the enhanced image, wherein the median filter is designed to reduce artifacts in the enhanced image.

Claim 11. (previously presented) An article comprising a machine-readable medium that stores machine-executable instructions for enhancing an image, the instructions causing a machine to:

first, smooth the image using a sharply peaked filter to produce a smoothed image;

detect edge areas in the smoothed image; and

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perform lowpass filtering using a high frequency cutoff filter on the smoothed image to produce an enhanced image, wherein lowpass filtering is performed only on non-edge areas of the smoothed image as determined by the edge detection.

Claim 12. (original) The article of claim 11, wherein smoothing comprises:
applying a two-dimensional filter to a pixel in the image;
storing a pixel processed by the two-dimensional filter in the smoothed image; and
repeating storing and applying for one or more other pixels in the image.

Claim 13. (original) The article of claim 11, wherein performing lowpass filtering comprises:

applying a one-dimensional filter to a pixel in the smoothed image;
storing a pixel processed by the one-dimensional filter in the enhanced image; and
repeating storing and applying for one or more other pixels in the smoothed image.

Claim 14. (canceled)

Claim 15. (canceled)

Claim 16. (previously presented) The article of claim 11, wherein detecting the edge comprises applying an edge filter to the smoothed image.

Claim 17. (previously presented) An article comprising a machine-readable medium that stores machine-executable instructions for enhancing an image, the instructions causing a machine to:

first, smooth the image using a sharply peaked filter to produce a smoothed image;
perform lowpass filtering using a high frequency cutoff filter on the smoothed image to produce an enhanced image; and

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apply a median filter to the enhanced image, wherein the median filter is designed to reduce artifacts on the enhanced image.

Claim 18. (previously presented) The article of claim 17, further comprising instructions that cause the machine to detect edge areas in the smoothed image, wherein the median filter is applied only to non-edge areas of the enhanced image.

Claim 19. (previously presented) An article comprising a machine-readable medium that stores machine-executable instructions for performing inverse halftoning on a halftoned image, the instructions causing a machine to:

first, smooth the halftoned image using a sharply peaked two-dimensional filter to produce a smoothed image;
detect edge areas in the smoothed image;
perform lowpass filtering using a high frequency cutoff filter on non-edge areas of the smoothed image; and
generate an enhanced image comprised of the edge areas of the smoothed image and lowpass-filtered non-edge areas of the smoothed image.

Claim 20. (previously presented) The article of claim 19, further comprising instructions that cause the machine to apply a median filter to non-edge areas of the enhanced image, wherein the median filter is designed to reduce artifacts in the enhanced image.

Claim 21. (previously presented) An apparatus for enhancing an image, comprising:
a memory that stores executable instructions; and
a processor that executes the instructions to:

first, smooth the image using a sharply peaked filter to produce a smoothed image;
detect an edge in the smoothed image; and

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perform lowpass filtering using a high frequency cutoff filter on the smoothed image to produce an enhanced image, wherein lowpass filtering is performed only on non-edge areas of the smoothed image as determined by the edge detection.

Claim 22. (original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein smoothing comprises:
applying a two-dimensional filter to a pixel in the image;
storing a pixel processed by the two-dimensional filter in the smoothed image; and
repeating storing and applying for one or more other pixels in the image.

Claim 23. (original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein performing lowpass filtering comprises:

applying a one-dimensional filter to a pixel in the smoothed image;
storing a pixel processed by the one-dimensional filter in the enhanced image; and
repeating storing and applying for one or more other pixels in the smoothed image.

Claim 24. (canceled)

Claim 25. (canceled)

Claim 26. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[25]]~~ 21, wherein detecting the edge comprises applying an edge filter to the smoothed image.

Claim 27. (previously presented)

An apparatus for enhancing an image, comprising:
a memory that stores executable instructions; and
a processor that executes the instructions to:

first, smooth the image using a sharply peaked filter to produce a smoothed image; and

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perform lowpass filtering using a high frequency cutoff filter on the smoothed image to produce an enhanced image,

wherein the processor executes instructions to apply a median filter to the enhanced image, and wherein the median filter is designed to reduce artifacts on the enhanced image.

Claim 28. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the processor further comprises instructions to detect edge areas in the smoothed image, wherein the median filter is applied only to non-edge areas of the enhanced image.

Claim 29. (previously presented) An apparatus for performing inverse halftoning on a halftoned image, comprising:

a memory that stores executable instructions; and

a processor that executes the instructions to:

first, smooth the halftoned image using a sharply peaked two-dimensional filter to produce a smoothed image;

detect edge areas in the smoothed image;

perform lowpass filtering using a high frequency cutoff filter on non-edge areas of the smoothed image; and

generate an enhanced image comprised of the edge areas of the smoothed image and lowpass-filtered non-edge areas of the smoothed image.

Claim 30. (original) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the processor executes instructions to apply a median filter to non-edge areas of the enhanced image; and the median filter is designed to reduce artifacts in the enhanced image.

Claim 31. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising: detecting an edge in the smoothed image before performing lowpass filtering.

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Claim 32. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein lowpass filtering is performed only on non-edge areas of the smoothed image, and wherein detecting the edge comprises applying an edge filter to the smoothed image.

Claim 33. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the processor executes instructions to detect an edge in the smoothed image.

Claim 34. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein lowpass filtering is performed only on non-edge areas of the smoothed image, and wherein detecting the edge comprises applying an edge filter to the smoothed image.

Claim 35. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the method of enhancing an image is performed in one pass.

Claim 36. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 6, wherein detecting an edge further comprises comparing a predetermined threshold with results of edge filtering, and wherein edge values determined by the edge filtering that exceed the threshold are ignored during lowpass filtering.